III. *A Letter from Mr.* John Ferguſon, *Surgeon, to* William Chiſelden, *Eſq; Surgeon to* Chelſea College, *F.* R. S. *&c. containing an Account of the* Extirpation *of part of the* Spleen *of a Man.*

SIR, Strabane, Feb. 18. 1734-5.

THOUGH I have not the Honour to be known to you, I make bold to trouble you with the following Caſe, which lately happen'd in my Practice. I imagine it uncommon; for though you have taken the Spleen out of a Dog, without any remarkable Inconvenience; yet it has never been attempted, that I know of, in a human Body. I aſſure you the Affair is literally true, and, if required, could have it atteſted by ſeveral who were Eye-witneſſes. As I believe you to be a Gentleman that is curious, and fond of any Diſcovery that is new, I flatter myſelf you will not be offended with the Freedom I now take; and that if you think this worth your Notice, you will be pleas'd to favour me with your Opinion of it, and whether you have known ſuch a Caſe happen before. This will add to the Obligations I acknowledge myſelf under to you, for the Benefit I have already received from your Writings, which I greatly eſteem, and am with the greateſt Reſpect, Dear SIR,

Your moſt obedient, humble Servant,

John Ferguſon.

ON

ON the 5th of *January* laſt, I was called to *Thomas Conway*, who had received a Wound with a Skane or great Knife, which went through the muſcular part of his Fore-Arm, and into the Left Hypochondrium; it was 24 Hours after he had receiv'd the Wound before I ſaw him (living 12 Miles diſtant from me); I found the Spleen out at the Wound, and that what by preſſing and thruſting of it with the Fingers, endeavouring to return it into its Place, which they that were about him could not accompliſh, and by being ſo long expoſed to the Air, it was quite cold, black and mortified. I conſider'd that cutting away the mortified Part, muſt be attended with the greateſt Danger, and was, to me, an unprecedented Caſe; yet that the Patient muſt inevitably die, if it was not done: I therefore made a Ligature with a ſtrong wax'd Thread, above the unſound Part, and cut off three Ounces and a half of the Spleen: Notwithſtanding the Ligature, there was a pretty large Artery that ſprung with great Violence, which I immediately tied up; and, after bathing all the Parts with warm Wine, I return'd the remaining part of the Spleen into its Place, leaving the Ends of the Threads out of the Wound, to draw them away by when they ſhould digeſt off, which they did on the 10th Day, and came away with the Dreſſings: I dreſs'd the Wound with Digeſtives, and the *Abdomen* was ſtuped twice a Day with an emollient Fomentation, and after ſtuping it was always malaxated with an emollient Liniment, which he told me always gave him Eaſe. What he moſt complain'd of, was that he could not make Water, for which I every Day gave him a Carminative Clyſter, which kept his Belly from ſwelling;

and

and always when the Clyſter came away, he got ſome Water made along with it: This Symptom went off on the ſeventh or eighth Day. He is now perfectly well recover'd, following his Buſineſs, and finds no Inconvenience from the want of the Part of the Spleen which he loſt. The Wound through his Arm was alſo quickly cured.

IV. *A Letter from* Benjamin Cook, *F.* R. S. *to* Peter Collinſon, *F.* R. S. *concerning a* Ball *of* Sulphur *ſuppoſed to be generated in the Air.*

Newport (*Iſle-Wight*) *July* 9. 1733.

Dear SIR,

THE great Heats we have lately ſuffer'd, were uſher'd in by a very gloomy Night of almoſt continual Lightning, accompanied with very loud Claps of Thunder, which, as uſual, were towards the Morning follow'd by very heavy Showers of Rain. Early next Day, in a Meadow near the Sea-ſhore, far from any Houſe, and where it has not been known that any Improvement has been carried on, a Husbandman found a beautiful yellow Ball lying on the Turf, which he gladly took up, in hopes it would well reward him for ſtooping.

But it prov'd to be of Sulphur, of which it ſmelt uncommonly ſtrong. It was froſted, as it were, all over with an Efloreſcence of fine, ſhining, yellowiſh Cryſtals, which ſoon fell off with the lighteſt Touch.

It